

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/743,623

Applicant(s)

SAYCE ET AL.

Examiner

Sean E Vincent

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1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to telephone interview of August 28, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10,15,16 and 18-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Bak and Cathy Ann Kodroff on August 28, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

The following text has been inserted in the present application after line 6 on page 6 of the specification:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a prior art apparatus for directly depositing synthetic silica on a glass ingot;

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of a prior art apparatus for directly depositing synthetic silica on a pool of molten glass;

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of a first embodiment of an apparatus for manufacturing a glass ingot from synthetic silica according to the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is a schematic view of a second embodiment of an apparatus for manufacturing a

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glass ingot from synthetic silica according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

In page 8, line 7: "34" has been changed to -33--

In the claims:

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. A furnace for the continuous manufacture of synthetic vitreous silica glass ingot, the furnace comprising:

a furnace enclosure housing a refractory container, the container being adapted to hold a melt of synthetic vitreous silica;

a die disposed within a wall or base of the container, the die including an orifice through which the glass ingot is extruded;

moveable support means downstream of the orifice, adapted to support and facilitate withdrawal of the ingot; and

at least one or more burners adapted to maintain the said melt of synthetic vitreous silica in said refractory container above its sintering temperature, said at least one said burner being a synthesis burner for depositing synthetic vitreous silica by vapour vapor deposition onto a surface of the melt and having associated means for supplying silica precursor and combustion gases;

said die and moveable support means being arranged to enable continuous withdrawal of synthetic vitreous silica as an ingot of predetermined cross-sectional dimensions, defined by dimensions of said die orifice, at a rate substantially similar to that at which silica is deposited by said synthesis burner.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

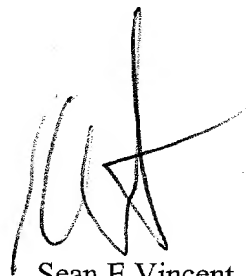
20. The furnace according to claim 18, wherein the refractory container with its die, the ingot and the arrangement of clamps are moveable ~~to and fro~~ horizontally in an x-direction to spread a pattern of deposited glass from the burner.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. The furnace according to claim 18, wherein the refractory container with its die, the ingot and the arrangement of clamps ~~can be moved~~ are moveable in orthogonally disposed x- and y- directions, to spread a pattern of deposited glass from said burner.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean E Vincent whose telephone number is 703-305-3607. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (8:30 - 6:00) Second Monday Off.
4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.
5. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.



Sean E Vincent
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

S Vincent